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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. Washington, D. C. May 17, 1955 SS150

Crop Progress Nearly Normal

Crop operations gained pace during April and in early May approached normal status over much of the country. Good soil moisture for germination and growth of corn and soybeans, also good prospects for fall-sown grains, spring grains, and forage crops are general in North Central and Northeastern areas. Prospects are less encouraging in some Southern sections, where March freezes set back crops, and remain discouraging in parts of the southern Great Plains, where chronic drought persists. Crop growth in Pacific Coast States, as well as much of the West, was delayed by cool April weather.

Irrigation water supplies improved in some northern areas of the West, but remain below average in most Southwestern areas.

Winter Wheat Estimate Down

The winter wheat crop as of May 1 is estimated at 653 million bushels--9 million bushels less than a month earlier. The May 1 estimate is 17 percent below last year's crop and one-fourth less than the 1944-53 average. Wheat flourished in most sections eastward from middle portions of Kansas and Nebraska. There were some further losses from drought and wind in eastern Colorado, western parts of Nebraska and Kansas, and in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. Pacific Northwest wheat prospects gained from moisture during April.

Big Rye Crop

The 1955 rye crop of 29.3 million bushels is the largest since 1942 and nearly one-fourth larger than the 1954 crop. About 43 percent of the acreage seeded to rye is expected to be harvested for grain--about the same proportion as last year.

STOCKS OF GRAIN IN ALL POSITIONS APRIL 1, 1955

	Mil. bu.	
Wheat	1,212	Largest April 1 stocks; up 7% from year earlier.
Rye	19.9	Largest April 1 stocks since 1944; up 7% from year earlier.
Corn	2,115	A new high for April 1 stocks; 6% larger than year ago.
Oats	621	Over a fourth larger than a year ago; almost up to April 1 record in 1946.
Barley	207	Largest of record; two-thirds larger than year ago.
Sorghum grains		Not available. Off-farm stocks are largest of record; more than 3 times as large as a year earlier.
Flaxseed	23.9	An eighth less than year ago.
Soybeans	177	Largest April 1 stocks.

Hay Condition Equals Average

Hay crops prospered in April from favorable soil moisture in most northern and northeastern parts of the country, where prospects surpass those of a year ago. But growth in Western States was delayed by cool weather, and in parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas early alfalfa growth reflects some March freeze damage. The May 1 condition of 85, which equals average, points to a larger than average 1955 total hay tonnage from the large prospective acreage. A record proportion of alfalfa is expected out of a total hay crop of at least 105 million tons. Pasture condition of 79 percent on May 1 was one point below a year ago and 3 points below average.

Late Spring Potato Crop Below Average

The commercial potato crop in the 12 late spring States is forecast at 35.3 million bushels, 4 percent above the 1954 crop but 14 percent below average.

More Fresh-Market Vegetables; Less for Processing

Production of spring commercial vegetables for fresh market are expected to be larger than indicated a month earlier. A tonnage only 4 percent less than in the spring of 1954 is now in prospect. For processing, the planted acreage of nine vegetables that usually account for about 93 percent of the total covered by the estimates is about 3 percent less than in 1954.

Southern Peach Crop a Failure

The 1955 peach crop in the 10 Southern States will be almost a complete failure as a result of freezing temperatures in late March.

Production Comparisons

	Jan.-Apr. 1954	Jan.-Apr. 1955
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	40.2	39.7
Eggs, (bil.).....	23.9	24.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	² 2,349	² 2,344
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	² 2,414	² 2,912
Lamb & mutton, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)...	¹ ² 169	² 173
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	¹ ² 5,125	² 5,620

¹Revised

²January-March under Federal inspection.

Nonfarm Indexes of Interest to Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Mar. 1954	Feb. 1955	Mar. 1955
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49 100	103	102	101
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49 100	112	111	111
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49 100	138	¹ 144	148

¹Revised.

In California, the peach bloom was heavy and pollination conditions were favorable for a good set. However, severe frost injury occurred during April in some areas of the Sacramento Valley and to a lesser extent in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

Maple Products Down

Maple sirup production in 1955 is estimated at 1.7 million gallons, 4 percent below the 1954 production. Maple sugar production is 10 percent smaller than last year.

Vegetable Seed Production Higher

Production of 238.3 million pounds of vegetable seeds this year is indicated--the largest since 1947, 11 percent above last year, and 20 percent above the 1949-53 average. Increases are due chiefly to the expansion in acreage of peas and dwarf green beans.

January-April Milk Production Below Last Year

Milk production increased seasonally and April production of 11,264 million pounds was almost up to last year's level. Production was 8 percent above the 1944-53 April average. January-April production totaled 39.7 billion pounds, 1 percent below last year's record.

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS-- MARCH 1955

Item	March 1955	March 1955 compared with March 1954	Jan.-Mar. 1955 compared with Jan.-Mar. 1954
<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Chicks hatched ¹	252	-18	-18
Chicks placed ²	69	-2	-3
Poults hatched:			
Heavy breeds.....	7.6	-18	-18
Light breeds.....	1.1	-40	-34
<i>Thousands</i>			
Chickens tested:			
Broilers.....	715	³ +7	³ +8
All others.....	65	³ -12	³ -2
Turkeys tested:			
Heavy breeds.....	46.6	³ +31	³ +5
Light breeds.....	36.7	³ -17	³ -22
<i>Million pounds</i>			
Poultry canned.....	20.2	+18	+15
<u>Production:</u>			
Liquid egg.....	67.9	-27	-19
Dried egg (egg solids) ..	2.4	-25	-8
Frozen egg.....	55.4	-27	-23
Evaporated whole milk ..	230.4	+18	+10
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	112.0	-17	-15
Butter, creamery.....	119.4	-17	-13
Cheese, American.....	80.8	-12	-13
<i>1,000 Gallons</i>			
Ice cream.....	50.1	+9	+5

¹By commercial hatcheries.

²13 principal producing areas.

³July-March.

January-April Egg Production 2 Percent Above Year Ago

Farm flocks laid 6,529 million eggs in April--4 percent more than in April 1954 and 3 percent above the 1944-53 average. Egg production was higher than last year in all parts of the country. January-April egg production was 2 percent above a year ago and 8 percent above average.

More Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for market in the 14 major feeding States on April 1 totaled 4,547,000 head--about 12 percent more than a year earlier. The April 1 number on feed is 11 percent below the January 1, 1955, level. In the 3 Corn Belt States--Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska--where comparable

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and unit	Average price		Parity price
	Mar. 15, 1955	Apr. 15, 1955	Apr. 15, 1955
Wheat, bu.	dol. 2.12	2.09	2.51
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.36	1.36	1.82
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 12.5	12.5	13.6
Cotton, Amer. upland, lb.	ct. 31.87	31.93	35.22
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.18	2.17	1.47
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 15.40	16.60	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 16.70	17.00	21.40
Calves, 100 lb.	dol. 17.40	17.60	23.50
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 19.80	19.60	23.50
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 57.5	57.1	74.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 3.93	¹ 3.73	4.71
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 27.3	26.4	29.3
Eggs, doz.	ct. 39.7	35.9	46.6

¹Preliminary.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Apr. 15, 1954	Mar. 15, 1955	Apr. 15, 1955
Prices received by farmers	257	244	247
Crops	240	245	252
Food grains.....	234	239	236
Feed grains and hay	208	198	197
Tobacco	443	437	437
Cotton	267	269	270
Fruit	217	205	222
Coml. veg. for fresh mkt.	225	274	264
Oil-bearing crops.....	283	264	261
Livestock and products.....	271	243	242
Meat animals.....	333	260	269
Dairy products.....	237	249	240
Poultry and eggs	178	199	185
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	265	265	265
Commodities used in living	273	¹ 273	274
Commodities used in production	256	256	254
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....	¹ 282	284	284
Wage rates ¹	507	521	516
Parity ratio (prices received to prices paid by farmers).....	91	86	87

¹Revised.

data for 1954 are available, 10 percent more cattle were placed on feed during the first quarter than during the first quarter of 1954, while marketings of fed cattle were 2 percent lower. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the January-March period were 11 percent larger than for the same period a year earlier.

Higher Prices Received; Prices Paid Steady

The index of prices received by farmers in mid-April was 247 percent of its 1910-14 average--up 3 points from a month earlier. Crop prices increased 3 percent, while livestock and livestock products declined slightly. The index was 4 percent lower than in April 1954.

The parity index (prices paid for commodities, interest, taxes and wage rates) remained unchanged from March 15 to April 15 as advances in prices of family living items offset lower prices for production goods and wage rates.

Farm Employment

Farm employment in late April was up a little more than a million from a month earlier, about the usual increase. There were 6,540,000 farm operators and unpaid family members at work and 1,515,000 hired workers.

Compared with a year earlier, the total number of workers was down 5 percent. The decrease was partly a continuation of the long-time trend but was also partly due to weather conditions. In the South, continued good weather helped reduce the need for workers, but in parts of Texas, dry soils delayed planting. In the New England, Mountain, and Pacific States, cold rainy weather also delayed field work.

Meat Animals--Production and Income--1954

Farm production of meat animals in 1954 totaled 46.8 billion pounds, the highest production on record, exceeding the previous record of 46.6 billion pounds produced in 1943.

Item	Liveweight Production		Gross income ¹	
	1954	Compared with 1953	1954	Compared with 1953
	<i>Bil. lbs.</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and calves	26.2	+2	5.2	+4
Hogs	19.1	+9	4.0	+1
Sheep and lambs	1.5	+5	.327	+3
Total	46.8	+5	9.5	+3

¹ Cash receipts plus value of home consumption.

Milk Price Study

The AMS has issued "Prices and Other Payments for Milk by Manufacturers in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma Markets," Marketing Research Report No. 81. It analyzes the level and structure of prices announced as paid and prices plus other payments actually made for ungraded whole milk at unregulated milk processing plants.

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings, by States, March 1955^{1 2}

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>	<i>1,000 dollars</i>
Maine	9,714	11,747	21,461
New Hampshire.....	4,620	824	5,444
Vermont.....	8,082	939	9,021
Massachusetts.....	10,553	4,874	15,427
Rhode Island	1,506	540	2,046
Connecticut	9,562	6,128	15,690
New York	48,290	14,104	62,394
New Jersey	19,298	5,412	24,710
Pennsylvania.....	52,520	16,176	68,696
North Atlantic	164,145	60,744	224,889
Ohio	59,035	23,389	82,424
Indiana	61,279	16,372	77,651
Illinois	95,194	59,089	154,283
Michigan	32,969	15,039	48,008
Wisconsin.....	73,269	7,024	80,293
East North Central	321,746	120,913	442,659
Minnesota.....	73,184	24,434	97,618
Iowa	129,366	54,905	184,271
Missouri	56,076	6,564	62,640
North Dakota	9,223	8,539	17,762
South Dakota	24,065	5,742	29,807
Nebraska.....	51,549	16,402	67,951
Kansas	44,860	15,056	59,916
West North Central	388,323	131,642	519,965
Delaware.....	5,796	715	6,511
Maryland.....	12,433	2,540	14,973
Virginia.....	19,152	5,754	24,906
West Virginia	6,193	1,584	7,777
North Carolina	17,899	6,473	24,372
South Carolina.....	7,485	3,014	10,499
Georgia.....	22,357	3,409	30,766
Florida.....	9,769	50,663	60,432
South Atlantic.....	101,084	79,152	180,236
Kentucky	19,267	2,382	21,649
Tennessee.....	17,258	3,222	20,480
Alabama	15,942	4,301	20,243
Mississippi.....	11,163	8,245	19,408
Arkansas.....	14,576	5,336	19,912
Louisiana.....	9,636	3,687	13,323
Oklahoma	24,298	4,449	28,747
Texas	65,645	29,857	95,502
South Central	177,785	61,479	239,264
Montana	7,117	8,002	15,119
Idaho	10,545	11,523	22,068
Wyoming.....	3,533	714	4,247
Colorado	22,678	5,114	27,792
New Mexico	4,661	2,861	7,522
Arizona.....	8,679	10,650	19,329
Utah	8,322	1,621	9,943
Nevada.....	2,410	520	2,930
Washington.....	14,511	13,596	28,107
Oregon.....	11,533	8,234	19,767
California.....	74,021	60,003	134,024
Western	168,010	122,838	290,848
United States	1,321,093	576,768	1,897,861

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

² For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming, United States ¹

Source	Mar. 1955	Apr. 1955 ²
	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Farm marketings and CCC loans ³	1,898	1,900
Livestock and products	1,321	1,300
Meat animals	671	
Dairy products	348	
Poultry and eggs.....	286	
Other.....	16	
Crops	577	600
Food grains	47	
Feed crops	161	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	32	
Oil-bearing crops	56	
Tobacco	9	
Vegetables.....	123	
Fruits and tree nuts	59	
Other.....	90	
Government payments.....	23	
Total cash receipts	1,921	

¹For comparison of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

²Preliminary.

³Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1954-Mar.	987	437	550	44
1955-Feb.	970	410	560	42
Mar.	971	412	559	42

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.
For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

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